

1 case of Calhoun versus USA, Case Number 04-10480, in
2 the U.S. District Court for the District of
3 Massachusetts.

4 We are going back on record now, and the
5 time is 2:29 p.m.

6 Q. BY MR. APPEL: Dr. Elwyn, now, in addition
7 to the Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, do
8 you have an opinion as to -- a reasonable degree of
9 medical certainty, as to whether Estella is
10 currently suffering from any other psychiatric
11 disorders?

12 A. Yes, I do have an opinion.

13 Q. And what is that?

14 A. In my opinion, Estella also suffers from
15 the condition known as Oppositional Defiant
16 Disorder.

17 Q. Could you describe what that is?

18 A. Sure. Again, we go back to the DSM, which
19 is our textbook that sort of sets forth the criteria
20 for any given psychiatric disorder.

21 And according to the DSM, Oppositional
22 Defiant Disorder consists of a pattern of
23 negativistic, hostile, and defiant behavior lasting
24 at least six months during which four or more of the
25 following are present. And then it lists those,

1 which are things like often loses temper, often
2 argues with adults, often actively defies or refuses
3 to comply with adults' requests or rules, often
4 deliberately annoys people, often blames others for
5 his or her mistakes or misbehavior, is often touchy
6 or easily annoyed by others, is often angry and
7 resentful, is often spiteful or vindictive.

8 The disturbance in behavior has to cause
9 clinically significant impairment in social,
10 academic, or occupational functioning. The
11 behaviors can't occur exclusively during the course
12 of a psychotic or mood disorder. And the individual
13 can't meet criteria for Conduct Disorder or, if the
14 individual is 18 years or older, for Antisocial
15 Personality Disorder.

16 So that's kind of what it is.

17 The reasons why I think this condition is
18 present in the case of -- of Estella is that, again,
19 if you look through the record, you find different
20 instances of her being described as having
21 oppositional kinds of behaviors.

22 More recently, though, and -- well, it's
23 consistent throughout her history, but -- but
24 certainly more -- more consistent at home recently
25 or -- I don't mean recently, but I mean at home --

1 predominantly at home rather than being at school so
2 much.

3 The parents report that -- that Estella is
4 oppositional, she is defiant, she does argue with
5 her parents, she does refuse to do things, she --
6 she does talk back to them. She does things that
7 are against the rules, she doesn't want to accept
8 consequences of discipline, she is touchy or easily
9 annoyed, she gets -- she loses her temper fairly
10 easily. In fact, I was interested in seeing that
11 her current teacher has described this as occurring
12 very often. And she sometimes, you know, lies to
13 get out of trouble or avoid obligations.

14 And so based upon the presence of these
15 symptoms, she appears to meet the diagnostic
16 criteria for Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

17 Q. Is there a relationship between these two
18 disorders, ADHD and ODD, Oppositional Defiant
19 Disorder? Is there some correlation between the
20 two?

21 A. Yes, there is. Very often, the conditions
22 are very often comorbid. If you're looking at an
23 individual who has ADHD, it's very common to find
24 the presence of a disruptive behavior disorder,
25 either Oppositional Defiant Disorder or Conduct

1 Disorder, and it's present in -- I've seen rates as
2 high as 85 percent in the literature. So -- so
3 they're very often comorbid, occur together, and
4 we -- we see them a lot in the clinic together.

5 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether --
6 again, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty,
7 as to whether anything about the parents' behaviors
8 has caused either Estella's ADHD or her ODD?

9 A. I -- I do.

10 Q. And what is that?

11 A. Well, let's begin with ADHD. As I think I
12 mentioned, ADHD is -- is kind of a neurological
13 disorder. In other words, it's one that's highly
14 biologically based. It's -- according to some --
15 some experts, there's never -- there is no
16 convincing sort of psychosocial explanation for ADHD
17 that is -- is convincingly demonstrated.

18 So when we're looking at ADHD, it would be
19 very unusual, to begin with, for me to think that,
20 absent some really sort of, I guess, grossly
21 pathological treatment by the parents, that you --
22 you just don't really see it very often in kids.

23 I mean, it's possible in certain
24 circumstances. I could maybe come up with a -- one.
25 But -- but you just don't see it that much. So to

1 begin with, it's less likely that ADHD would be
2 caused by parental sort of child -- child-parent
3 dynamics.

4 Certainly in this case, when I review the
5 specifics of the case, I don't find -- I don't find
6 any kind of sort of gross pathology that would lead
7 me to the conclusion that there's any real
8 significant influence of, say, parenting style or,
9 you know, parent-child struggles or something like
10 that in the case of ADHD.

11 In the case of Oppositional Defiant
12 Disorder, it's -- it's less clearly defined in terms
13 of what causes it, and it's thought to be sort of
14 multifactorial. And certainly the parent-child
15 dynamic is an important factor in -- that has to be
16 considered in the development of the condition. And
17 so things that affect the parent-child dynamic can
18 affect whether -- whether or not a kid has
19 Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

20 So in the specifics of this case, I think
21 there -- there may be some parental -- sort of
22 parent-child kinds of relational issues that are
23 present that are -- that are having an effect upon
24 the case.

25 And specifically what I mean is it's been

1 biological mechanisms at play that if -- if
2 something is -- is important in the development of
3 ADHD, that it -- it is probably important in the
4 development of the ODD as well, and that being in
5 this case the neurological insult.

6 Q. And would that be the basis for your --

7 Do you have an opinion that the
8 neurological insult is more likely than not a
9 substantial contributing factor in her -- in
10 Estella's developing ODD?

11 MR. GIEDT: Once again, motion to strike.
12 Objection. Motion to strike, 26(a)(2)(B) --

13 MR. APPEL: Yeah.

14 MR. GIEDT: -- failure to state the basis
15 and reasons for your opinions and the data and other
16 information considered in your report.

17 Q. BY MR. APPEL: Go ahead.

18 A. Yes -- yes, I do. And that opinion is that
19 the neurological injury that Estella suffered is an
20 important contributing factor to the development of
21 her ODD both for -- well, for the reasons that I
22 just stated; one being biological factors that may
23 impact upon her development, and the second being,
24 you know, what that does -- what -- what going
25 through that sort of thing with a child does to your

1 relationship with the child.

2 Q. Do you have any impressions with respect to
3 the effect of Silas's deployment in Iraq and that --
4 the effect of that on -- on Estella and her
5 psychological condition?

6 A. I do have some impressions.

7 Q. And what are they?

8 A. Well, according to my report -- and I
9 believe it to be correct -- Silas wasn't deployed to
10 Iraq until -- was it October of 2003, I think?

11 Q. December.

12 A. I'm sorry. December of 2003. And as we
13 discussed when I reviewed the history, prior to that
14 time, Estella was already exhibiting significant
15 behaviors of, you know, disruptive behaviors. And
16 so I don't think that it would be reasonable, you
17 know, temporally to say that one caused the other.

18 On the other hand, you know, certainly
19 must -- must have been more difficult to have a
20 difficult -- you know, these difficult behaviors in
21 your house when there's only one parent rather than
22 two, so --

23 But those would be my impressions, yes.

24 Q. Doctor, what is a -- and now I'm referring
25 to your report; in particular, your -- the Axis --

1 In her case, in the case of Estella, I
2 would say that she does have some -- some factors
3 that are positive in that, you know, she comes from
4 a -- an intact family of a socioeconomic status
5 that's not on the lower side, the -- the educational
6 level of her parents is high, and she herself has
7 been able to sort of do okay in school, I guess, B's
8 and C's, although, you know, she's not doing as well
9 now.

10 On the other hand, she does have a comorbid
11 condition, the Oppositional Defiant Disorder, which
12 sort of worsens the prognosis. And she does appear
13 to have had symptoms from a very early age, which
14 gives us sort of a chronicity to the condition at
15 this point which makes it less likely to remit.

16 So I don't think it's possible to come up
17 with a specific number or percentage of likelihood
18 that it will either persist or remit. Usually they
19 say nowadays, particularly more modern studies that
20 are a little more rigorous, that, you know, 70 to
21 80 percent or as low as 60, you know, about
22 two-thirds, remains -- of -- of kids with ADHD
23 continue to have it into adolescence, and then from
24 adolescence to adulthood, there will be a percentage
25 that persists. I think that number is the most

1 controversial, but I've seen numbers of, you know,
2 between something like 46 percent and 66 percent
3 continue into adulthood.

4 So the -- there is a substantial -- a
5 substantial likelihood that she will continue to
6 have these problems just based strictly on the
7 percentages.

8 And as far as what those problems might be,
9 I'm not sure if you're interested, but I could sort
10 of go into that a little bit.

11 Q. Yes, please. Is there a substantial
12 likelihood that she will continue to have academic
13 problems?

14 A. Yes. Kids who have --

15 MR. GIEDT: Objection.

16 THE WITNESS: -- ADHD -- in terms of
17 academic risks, she does have problems currently.
18 It's likely she'll continue to have problems. You
19 know, school only gets more difficult. You know,
20 and recess is eliminated.

21 You know, it's harder for kids who have
22 ADHD, the more academic and rigorous the -- as you
23 go along, and so kids who have ADHD, particularly
24 into adolescence and so on, are more likely to have
25 problems, they're less likely to succeed in school,

1 more likely to fail, more likely to repeat grades.

2 You know, this sort of -- this sort of
3 problem, I guess, if it goes on into adulthood, will
4 then transfer sort of from the school environment to
5 the work environment. And we know from studies that
6 adults with ADHD are more likely to change jobs more
7 frequently, they're more likely to sort of
8 underperform and -- and not have the success that
9 they would otherwise have in the workplace. They're
10 more likely to be fired. So I think those -- those
11 risks are -- are there for her.

12 In addition, there are a whole host of
13 other risks. We know that --

14 Q. What would they be?

15 MR. GIEDT: Yeah.

16 Q. BY MR. APPEL: Go head. You can continue.
17 What would they be?

18 A. Okay. Well, one would relate to safety
19 concerns. Kids with ADHD are more likely to suffer
20 physical injury from -- than other kids who don't
21 have ADHD, which is certainly understandable if
22 they're climbing about and that sort of thing. That
23 persists.

24 And over time I know that there have been
25 studies done that look at driving records and

1 difficulties in driving that folks with ADHD have
2 versus those who don't. I think there are more --
3 more tickets issued to those who have ADHD. Those
4 who have ADHD are more likely to be involved in
5 motor vehicle accidents than those who don't have
6 ADHD. So it's a risk factor for that.

7 In terms of interpersonal relationships,
8 kids with ADHD are more likely to suffer socially.
9 It's kind of understandable if you have a -- a peer
10 who's always bothering you or always, you know,
11 interrupting your conversations, you kind of tend
12 not to like that person as much, and so they suffer
13 in that regard.

14 When they get older, they have more
15 relationship problems. They're more likely to have
16 had sexual relations at an early age, so it puts
17 them at an increased risk for, you know, early
18 pregnancy and perhaps out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

19 I believe there's literature that suggests
20 they're more likely to have sexually transmitted
21 diseases. And they're more likely to have a greater
22 number of relationships, including more likely to --
23 to have divorce as part of their -- their situation.

24 In terms of other -- other kinds of -- of
25 things that they're placed at increased risk for,